

**Congressman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY)**  
**Opening Statement for Cybersecurity Education and Training Hearing**

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone here this morning for a hearing on cybersecurity -- a subject that has consumed the Committee over the past couple of years.

We have focused on this topic for good reason. Information and communication systems underpin our government and they ensure the smooth functioning of our industries, financial institutions and transportation systems. They touch nearly every aspect of our lives, but they are fragile, vulnerable to intrusions and attacks.

We continue to focus on new tools to prevent devastating attacks – and we will undoubtedly revisit the federal investment in cybersecurity research and development in the future – but today we will focus on another cybersecurity challenge: the education and training of a cadre of professionals in computer security and information assurance.

As the costs of security breaches rise and attacks increase in frequency and sophistication, business and industry are recognizing the need to invest in technology as well as training. And education and training programs are springing up to meet that need.

Some of these programs, including those represented here today, are particularly innovative, but the field of cybersecurity education and training is still developing. We need to learn how to help our colleges and universities respond rapidly and intelligently to a field that continues to evolve. We need to identify ways to attract and retain a skilled faculty. And we need to work with higher education institutions, businesses and other organizations to ensure that education and training courses and programs translate into employment.

A few years ago, a friend summed up the challenges of cybersecurity in this way: New technologies and enhanced security practices are like sunscreen. They offer you some protection but, sooner or later, you are going to get burned. By increasing the quality and quantity of cybersecurity education and training programs, a new generation of technicians and technology professionals can enhance the SPF of our information and communication systems and create more secure future.

And that would provide a very sunny outlook indeed.

Mr. Gordon?